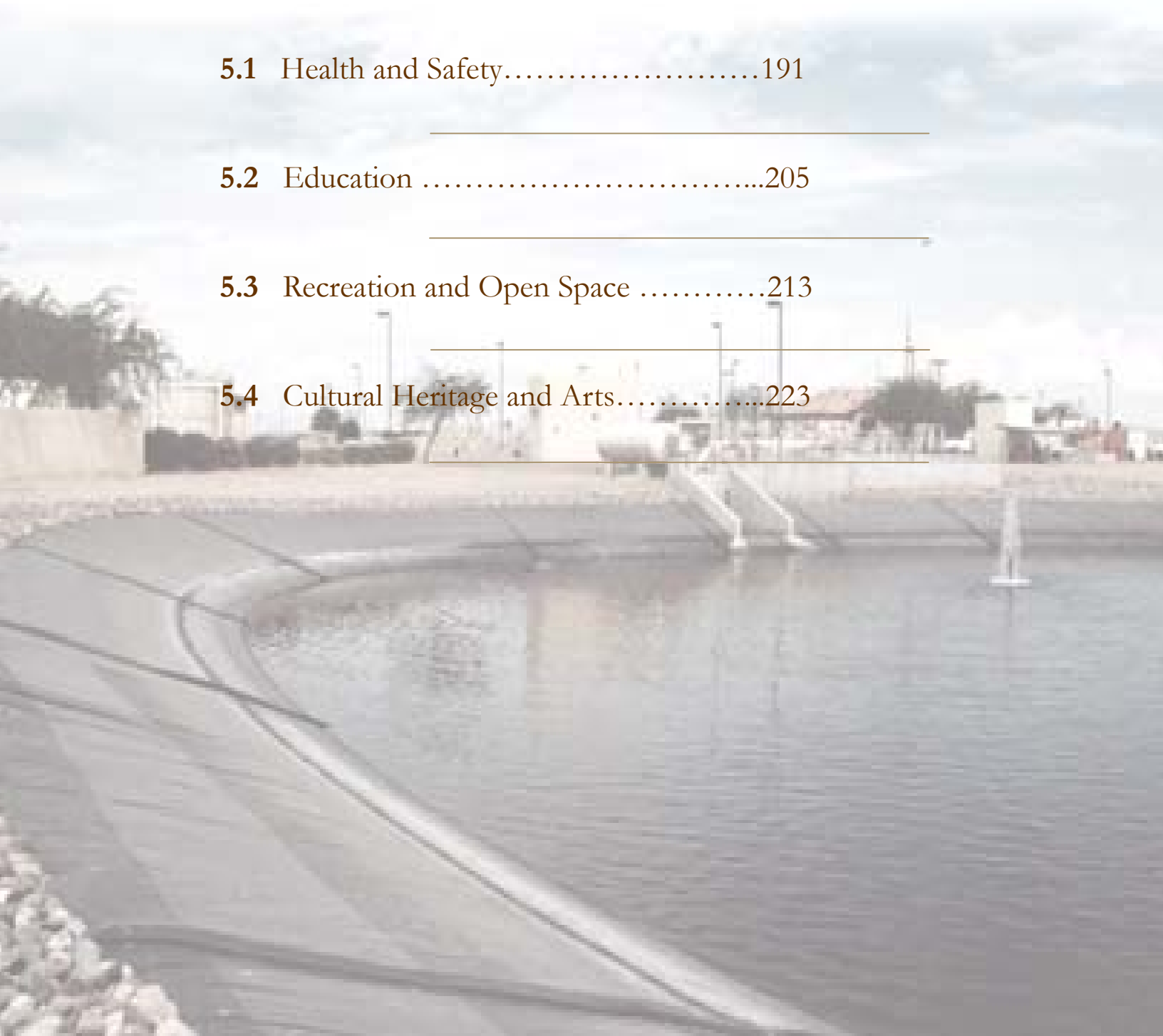


5.0 Services.....189

5.1 Health and Safety.....191

5.2 Education 205

5.3 Recreation and Open Space 213

5.4 Cultural Heritage and Arts.....223

5.0 Services

The city of Surprise strives to provide the highest quality of life possible to all residents. As the population of the city increases, more demand will be placed on the city to provide basic services and enhancements to quality of life.

The city currently has emergency plans and procedures in place. With the city growing to over 100,000 people, plans must now be placed within the Surprise General Plan 2030 to provide goals to prevent and respond to disasters.

Community wellness is a rising concern for all cities in the United States. Increases in obesity rates, disabilities, and other medical concerns can be partially addressed by changing communities to influence a healthier environment and one friendlier to those with disabilities.

A primary concern of Surprise residents is education. Primary and secondary education in Surprise is under the jurisdiction of separate public and private school boards. The city will work with all education services to help in providing the best possible primary, secondary, and life long learning environment to its residents.

Quality of life within a city is partially measured by the amenities and arts offered within the city. As the density and population of the city increase, recreation, open space, and art become more important to achieve the high quality of life desired by the residents of the city of Surprise.

5.1 Health and Safety Element

5.1.1 Introduction……..191
5.1.2 Discussion……191
Community Wellness
Prevention
Response
5.1.3 Goals and Policies……..200

5.1 Health and Safety

5.1.1 Introduction

Central to any public plan is the importance of protecting the health, safety, and security of the citizens. The health and safety element addresses community health as well as the protection of the community from any unreasonable risks associated with the effects of geological hazards, including subsidence and slope instability; flooding; wild land fires; hazardous materials and waste; human-induced hazards; and general emergency. By providing guidance to implement preventative and reactive measures for integration within planning activities, the city can promote the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens more effectively and more comprehensively. The health and safety element of the Surprise General Plan 2030 is divided into three distinct sections: community wellness, prevention and response.

5.1.2 Discussion

A. Community Wellness

Community wellness is a topic of increasing concern in communities across the nation. As the "baby boomer" population reaches retirement age, more facilities and services will be required to address the needs of an aging population. With aging, there is also an increase in the number of people with disabilities. The issues associated with this topic go beyond the location and services provided by public and private medical institutions. The overall health of a community depends on multiple factors, including the environment around them. A healthy environment reduces health risks and promotes better lifestyle choices. Factors that are important to a healthy environment and community wellness include the following.

1. Safe neighborhoods and public spaces

Safety-related issues are often at the top of the list of concerns by neighborhood residents. People want to feel they are safe when they are walking, biking, or traversing their neighborhoods and community. The way the community is designed can play an enormous part in the perception of safety in a community. As a result, the design of a community

can hinder or enhance people activities within a community. Land use decisions play an important role in promoting one's ability to engage in everyday activities within the neighborhood or community. Equally important is the role that perception can play in creating safe neighborhoods. Design techniques can help minimize perceived safety problems.

Such techniques include creating neighborhoods and communities that provide integration and balance of uses; viewing streets as an amenity, requiring front porches, and other semi-public areas to encourage community interaction. *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design* (CPTED) principles play a vital part in promoting safe neighborhoods with the emphasis on natural surveillance, territorial reinforcement, natural access control, and hardening target areas. *Safescape* concepts also highlight the importance of design in creating safe communities.

2. Access to public transit

Using public transit and active transportation options such as walking and biking reduces vehicle miles traveled, vehicle emissions, respiratory disease, and exposure to environmental contamination due to fuel and oil spills. Proximity to transit is associated with reduced vehicle trips and improved access to social, medical, employment, and recreational activities.

3. Safe transportation choices

Surprise has built miles of roadways for travel by vehicles. These roadways often lack adequate sidewalks, have lanes that are too narrow to share with bicyclists, and feature few, poorly marked, or dangerous pedestrian crossings. Complete Streets are streets that are designed for multiple users including pedestrians of all ages, bicyclists, people with disabilities, and cars and reduce risk of pedestrian and bicycle injuries. A commitment to community wellness requires that there is safe access for all users. It is imperative that pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and bus riders of all ages and abilities are able to safely move along and across a complete street.

4. Access to recreation and open space

Access to a park directly affects the use of parks for recreation and physical activity. Health benefits of physical activity may include a reduced risk of premature mortality and reduced risks of heart disease. Regular participation in physical activity can also reduce depression and anxiety, improve mood, and enhance ability to perform daily tasks. The availability of school grounds for community recreation after school and on weekends can promote physical activity, social cohesion, and neighborhood safety.

5. Access to healthy foods

A grocery store in a neighborhood allows for greater fruit and vegetable consumption; reducing the prevalence of over-weight and obesity, and incidence of hunger. Farmers' markets provide another source of fresh, locally produced fruits and vegetables. Farmers' markets are particularly important in areas poorly served by full service grocery stores. On the other hand, where there are high numbers of fast-food restaurants compared to grocery stores, there are higher rates of health issues.

6. Access to medical services

The availability of good primary health care has a major role in the prevention of hospitalizations from chronic and communicable diseases. The availability of public transportation to community health facilities affects access to quality, affordable, reliable health care. Locating health facilities near transit can reduce vehicle trips and driving with benefits to air quality, community noise, and injuries. It also provides access to the greatest number of people.

7. Access to quality affordable housing

Lack of adequate affordable housing may force families to seek any form of shelter which, in turn, compromises their health and well-being. This can result in overcrowding, overpayment, substandard housing and longer work commutes, and other deficiencies. A wider range of housing sizes (number of bedrooms) that are affordable could alleviate overcrowding and lessen related negative health impacts.

8. Access to life-cycle housing

Creating designs for a lifetime, for any need, so families can stay in their home as special needs arise or change-and be able to effectively market the home should circumstances require moving are key elements to providing life cycle housing and accessibility. *Principles of Universal Design and Visitability* in housing design can create homes that are able to accommodate a wide diversity of housing needs, from families with young children to families with elderly or disabled members. For example, a low bar with leg room underneath in the kitchen can be used by children today and a wheelchair user later. Grab bars beside the bathtub can be used by toddlers, teens or adults with a temporary need such as a sprained ankle, and by elderly residents with a more permanent need. Universal design also means wider door openings that can accommodate a wheelchair, and a 5-foot turning radius in bathrooms and kitchens.

Principles of Universal Design were developed to guide a wide range of design disciplines including environments, products, and communications. The Center for Universal Design identified design principles that include:

1. Equitable use.
2. Flexibility in use.
3. Simple and intuitive.
4. Perceptible information.
5. Tolerance for error.
6. Low physical effort.
7. Size and space for approach and use.

Applying these principles can create homes that people are able to live in throughout their life.

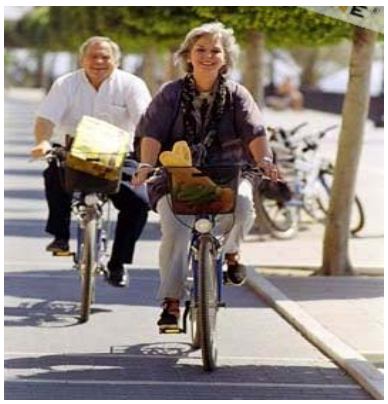
9. Access to economic opportunities

Unemployment and lack of sufficient economic opportunity is a major factor in all health outcomes. Attainment of self-sufficiency income predicts better health, improved nutrition, lower mortality, and indirect health benefits such as reduced communicable diseases, and reduced community violence.

10. Connected and complete neighborhoods

A healthy community promotes neighborhoods with daily goods and services within walking distance. Being able to walk to neighborhood goods and services promotes physical activity, reduces vehicle trips and miles traveled, and increases neighborhood cohesion and safety. Healthy neighborhoods are those in which more that fifty percent of the typical daily public and retail services are located within one-quarter of a mile of their homes.

11. A quality environment



Studies have found consistent associations between living in proximity to a busy roadway and respiratory disease symptoms including asthma and lung function measures. Diesel particulate matter has acute short-term impacts and a disproportionate effect on the elderly, children, those with illnesses, or others who are sensitive to air pollutants. On the other hand, living in greener environments is associated with reduced self-reported health symptoms, better self-rated health, and higher scores on general health questionnaires. A quality environment focuses on the well-being of the communities, and on the principle that everyone is entitled to protection from the environmental hazards.

12. Sustainable development and practices

A healthy community promotes sustainability and environmental stewardship through the design of its built environment. Reducing electricity and natural gas usage results in reduction in climate change and air pollution emissions, reduction in the hazards, and use of environmental resources necessary to produce and transport energy. This subsequently results in improved air quality and lower rates of respiratory illness. Green businesses reduce occupational and environmental exposures to toxic chemicals and provides economic opportunities. Recycling and composting helps improve air, land, and water quality, as well as reduce energy demands associated with air pollution and green house gas emissions.

It seems common sense that major decisions regarding development and planning should be made with consideration for each of the twelve factors. After all, the factors are directly

related to the public's health. However, mechanisms and mandates for such consideration do not exist or are present in limited capacity. Providing such mechanisms will require a fresh look at the way decisions are made.

B. Prevention

Both natural and human induced hazards pose a threat to life and property, and may necessitate costly public improvements. Prevention of both natural and man-made hazards is the first step in making the city of Surprise a safer community. These hazards may be a result of geological hazards to natural events to public hazards or may arise from development such as: site layout, faulty construction, high noise areas, and military hazard zones. The city will make all efforts to reduce or eliminate these hazards. Examples of such hazards include the following.

Natural or Geological Hazards

Geological hazards, such as subsidence, and unstable slopes or soils may present a threat to life and property and necessitate costly public improvements. Surprise should establish methods to identify the hazard areas and to review and regulate development where such hazards may occur.

Surprise is subject to significant weather extremes due to its Sonoran Desert location. Very high summer heat, powerful summer thunderstorms, soaking winter rains, and the potential for flooding are all typical in Sonoran Desert locations. Planning efforts must consider the adequacy of the plan in relation to the weather extremes.

Man-made Activities

Hazards resulting from human developments or activities such as crime; faulty construction; poor site layout; improper location of land uses; airport approaches or high noise areas; ground water overuse; or the use, storage, or disposal of explosive, flammable, toxic or other dangerous materials may pose a threat to life and property and may necessitate costly public improvements. To reduce or eliminate these hazards, Surprise needs to continue to establish measures to identify

hazardous areas and to review and regulate development where such hazards occur.

Hazardous Materials

Many man-made substances can be hazardous to health. The increased use of such materials has increased potential hazards and actual damage. Public concerns have led to tighter controls on the production, transport, storage, sale, and use of hazardous materials and, particularly on the handling and disposal of concentrated residues and wastes produced by industrial operations.

Industrial sites where materials such as paint, rubber products, oil, tar, solvents, and pesticides are used have the potential to contaminate the environment. Hazardous materials, such as paints, solvents and cleaning compounds, are also present in small quantities in many homes. The proper disposal of these materials is important to sustaining a clean and healthy environment.

Fire

Fire can arise from natural or man made sources. Fire hazard regulations are intended to minimize on-site property damage and personal injury, avoid damage to adjacent properties, and reduce the cost of fire suppression services. Increasing "built-in" fire protection in new construction is the most cost effective way of achieving these objectives. All development must have adequate water available for fire suppression, whether from a hydrant and community system or from an on-site storage tank.

Where development is permitted in the midst of natural vegetation, the fire hazard must be further mitigated by other measures. The locations of subdivision lots and building envelopes can maximize access by emergency vehicles.

Preventing the spread of fires to and from structures also requires removal of surrounding vegetation and clearing of fuel breaks.

Noise

Noise can be annoying and physically harmful to human beings and animals. Exposure to intense noise can result in hearing damage. Sources contributing to the potentially harmful noise levels include aircraft, motor vehicle traffic, railroad traffic, open industrial operations such as gravel quarries, shooting ranges, and various construction noises.

C. Response

Providing medical response and protection against crime and risk of fire are primary concerns for city emergency services. Safety for both crime and fire prevention can be increased through land use planning and community design. Fire hazards are further reduced by continued training, application of Fire and Building Codes, and regional cooperation. For the city of Surprise the primary concern will be maintaining efficient services by locating new facilities as the community grows. Other methods that are used to facilitate effective response include:

Emergency Preparedness

Emergency (disaster) preparedness planning consists of three major components: government actions, private organization emergency response actions, and individual or small group actions. Emergency preparedness planning recognizes that in the first 72-hours after a major disaster people must be self sufficient. Governments cannot provide all of the services that may be needed. Therefore, disaster preparedness involves planning efforts by local government, private organizations, and local groups to identify resources, provide public awareness, and formulate plans about what to do in an emergency situation.

The plans that are developed must have provisions for communications, supplies, health care, law enforcement, and disaster relief. In addition, the plans must be revised and updated on a regular basis due to rapid growth and development within the planning area.

Education

Block Watch and other community policing programs that involve citizens improve safety, build goodwill, and lessen the demand on city resources are important.

5.1.3 Goals and Policies

Goal 1

Surprise is a healthy community.

Policies

1. Continue to identify and reduce barriers to create an accessible community for all.
2. Create education programs to promote good personal health.
3. Building codes should promote a high quality of life for people of all abilities.
4. Encourage wellness through preventative health options.
5. Increase options for aging in place.
6. Promote the design of walkable, inclusive communities.

Goal 2

Threats of natural and human-induced hazards are minimized.

Policies

1. Strive to minimize the hazards of flooding from rivers, washes, and stormwater.
2. Protect the community from geological instability and subsidence.
3. Prevent unnecessary exposure of people and property to risks of damage or injury from hazardous materials.
4. Promote education on the proper handling, storage, use, and disposal of hazardous materials.
5. Promote policies and development standards that aid in prevention of natural and human-induced hazards

Goal 3

The community is well prepared to respond to natural and human induced catastrophic events.

Policies

1. Support policies and development standards that allow for appropriate response by emergency services.

2. Continue to work with local and regional entities to promote an effective and efficient communication system.

3. Ensure clear, accurate, and timely communication of critical information regarding events, safety, and assistance.

4. Ensure there are adequate resources for training of emergency response personnel.

5. Continue to prepare and update emergency procedures for natural or man-made disasters.

6. Promote protection and preservation of natural drainage systems as the primary emphasis of city stormwater management efforts.

7. Ensure planned land development and building codes are designed to reduce avoidable property damage from storms/flooding and other natural events.

8. The city shall continue to coordinate its regional flood control planning with the Maricopa County Flood Control District and require adequate retention for new development.

9. Promote community awareness of risks associated with flooding.

10. Conduct timely reviews to ensure an effective update of the city's emergency response and recovery plan to reflect current risk/threat awareness.

11. Ensure adequate resources and training for critical staff positions.

12. Provide an integrated approach to planning and preparedness for emergencies and disasters.

13. Construct city facilities that will remain operable during and after a major catastrophic event.

14. Collaborate with the medical community in evaluating the effectiveness of the emergency medical system.

15. Effectively coordinate response of city staff and apply city resources to rapidly restore order and begin the process of recovery.

16. Provide adequate access for emergency vehicles, particularly fire fighting equipment, as well as secure evacuation routes.

17. Establish an effective relationship with federal, state, and local agencies designed to support the community in times of emergency.

18. Coordinate emergency efforts with the Arizona Department of Emergency Management, Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management, agencies, and jurisdictions to provide an effective and coordinated response to any emergency/disaster.

Goal 4

People and property are not exposed to risks of damage or injury from hazardous materials.

Policies

1. Route the vehicular transport of all hazardous materials and waste products away from residential neighborhoods in accordance with the adopted and incorporated federal hazardous materials transportation regulations.

2. Periodically update its adopted truck route through the city.

3. Support state and federal legislation that strengthens safety requirements for transporting hazardous materials.

4. Collaborate with other regulatory agencies to assist people with their concerns and needs related to the use, storage, handling, and safe disposal of hazardous materials.

5. Prepare strategies and plans for evacuating inhabitants and handling emergencies involving hazardous materials.

6. Educate the public about the risks of hazardous material within their homes and businesses, and vehicles that move hazardous waste throughout the community.

Goal 5

Risks from natural and man-made fires are reduced.

Policies

1. Maintain appropriate front, side, and rear yard setback requirements to minimize the threat of a spreading fire.

2. Evaluate, monitor, and remove dilapidated and underutilized structures that pose a fire threat in the city.

3. Encourage automatic sprinkler systems in all buildings, including single-family dwellings.

4. Consider the severity of natural fire hazards, potential damage from wild land and structural fires, adequacy of fire protection, and mitigation measures consistent in the review of projects.

5. Consider requiring adherence to *International Wildlife Urban Interface Code* standards in the design of new development in northern area of the city.

6. Conduct annual fire inspections of all commercial occupancies to ensure adherence to the city-adopted Fire Code.

7. Continue evaluating the feasibility of requiring that all newly constructed residential occupancies contain residential fire sprinklers.

8. Require on-site detection and suppression, including automatic sprinkler systems, where available services do not provide acceptable levels of protection.

9. Continue to support automatic aid agreements with municipal neighbors in the suppression of fire in the region.

10. Collaborate with the business community to establish partnerships in fire prevention efforts.

11. Emphasize public education programs that focus on fire prevention.

Goal 6

Broad interdisciplinary-derived methods and emerging techniques are employed to minimize risks.

Policies

1. Utilize the principles of *Crime Prevention through Environmental Design* (CPTED) to enhance the safety of proposed and existing developments from crime.

2. Consider “Safescape” concepts in development review of new projects.

3. Collaborate with private and public health agencies to promote health and injury prevention as prevention strategies.

4. Promote the use of alarm systems in all non-residential buildings.

5. Consider the use of photo-radar to monitor dangerous traffic intersections.

6. Keep pace with the growth of the city and the associated enforcement challenges.

Goal 7

Clear, accurate, and timely communication of critical information regarding events, safety, and assistance is disseminated when needed.

Policies

1. Make information available to the general public as available.

2. Enhance the effectiveness of the emergency response system by connecting people with appropriate non-emergency agencies.

3. Provide pro-active education to the community with special emphasis on high risk populations.

4. Assist in the development of emergency preparedness curriculum and training materials for schools and day care centers.

5. Encourage business and industry to plan for recovery from catastrophic events.

6. Provide guidance to citizens on disaster recovery through brochures, talks, and other public information methods.

7. Implement educational seminars, community exercises and emergency response drills.